GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:149
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND WATERWAYS
Rajendran Shri P.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds sanctioned and released as Central assistance to various States including Kerala for developing inland waterways during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the present status of work on the various ongoing projects including National Waterway No. 3 from Kottappuram to Kollam and the steps taken by the Government for early completion of the work; and

(c) the other measures being taken by the Government to promote inland waterways in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a): Details of projects sanctioned and funds released as Central Assistance to various states including Kerala for developing inland waterways under Centrally Sponsored Schemes are given in Annexure.

(b): The navigation channel development work has been completed in Udyogmandal Canal, Champakara canal and Kochi-Alappuzha sections of the National Waterway-3. Out of 205 km of NW-3, only 19.66 km remains to be developed to the required width and depth between Alappuzha and Kollam and 4.83 km between Kochi-Kottapuram. Balance works would be completed by March 2010 as per action plan drawn by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Aids for 24 hrs. navigation have been installed in the entire stretch of 205 Km. Terminals at seven locations, at Kottapuram, Aluva, Maradu (Kochi), Vaikkom, Thanneermukkom, Thrikkunnappuzha and Kayamkulam have been constructed. Terminal at Kollam is under construction.

(c): The Government has already declared three National Waterways namely

(i) Ganga from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 km)

(ii) Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 km) and

(iii) West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km). Basic infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation namely navigational channel, navigational aids, and terminals are being provided on these National Waterways to make them functional as per action plan to be completed by 2010.

Demonstrative cargo operation voyages are being taken up on National Waterway (NW) -1 since last four years.

For rapid development of IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation an IWT Policy was announced in 2001. Important elements of this Policy are:

Vessel building subsidy of 30% - was in operation during 10th Plan. It is proposed to continue it in 11th Plan also.

Tax exemptions similar to National Highways have been notified.

Custom duty concessions have been notified.

Higher depreciation rate has been notified.

IWAI can enter into agreements for Joint Venture (JV) projects.

Parliament has passed the Bills for declaration of National Waterways of Kakinada-Puducherry stretch of Canals and the Kaluvelly Tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Vazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095km) and Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of river Matia river and Mahanadi Delta rivers (623km). Bill for Lakhipur - Bhanga stretch of River Barak (121km) to be declared as National Waterway is under process.